

"To care for him who has borne the battle, and for his widow and orphans."

The National Tribune.

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JOHN McELROY, Editor.

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PROVERBS.

Hear, Oh, my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go; keep her; for she is thy life.

"Ido" is the latest world language. It is made up of the roots of other languages, mainly Latin, and its architect is Prof. Jespersen, the Danish professor at Columbia University.

Five miles of the Panama Canal are already in operation, with steamers using it daily. This includes the channel from a point on the Bay of Panama, where the water is 45 feet deep, to the wharves at Balboa.

The British House of Peers consists of six Princes of the blood, 20 Archbishops, 21 Bishops, 22 Marquises, 116 Barons, 25 Viscounts, 24 Bishops, 299 Peers, 16 Scottish Representative Peers and 23 Irish Representative Peers.

There were 1,000,000 less barrels of beer drunk in this country last year than the year before. Singularly, the decrease was greatest in the wet States, with Ohio leading by a decrease of 7.79 per cent. Florida, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Carolina and Texas drank more beer in 1909 than in 1908.

Congress cannot plead lack of complete information as to what the veterans in the country want and should have. The wonderfully unanimous endorsements of The National Tribune bill from every part of the country will give it the fullest and most exact knowledge on the subject.

The English Radicals have a new move against the House of Lords. They claim there is no legal compulsion to issue writs for peers to meet in Parliament. This is therefore discretionary with the Ministry, and they need not issue writs; but to the peers they may choose, and can therefore summon only those whose votes they are sure of.

Germany is in the throes of a co-education agitation, with the arguments pro and con more vehement than were experienced recently in the Cook-Pearry dispute. The co-educationists seem to be having the better of it, as in one province 56 towns petitioned for the admission of girls into the high schools where boys are being educated.

Naturally, Secretary Knox's idea of holding ex-President Zelaya "personally responsible" for the murder of two Americans is giving rise to a great deal of anxiety. It is making the South American politicians generally sit up and take notice. American citizenship all at once means a great deal more to them than it did when they could shoot Americans to gratify their private hatred, and then excuse it as an act of war. Would it be possible for Secretary Knox to bring Zelaya before a jury of 12 good men and true, to be tried according to the laws for punishing wilful and premeditated murder.

Ex-President Zelaya is now in the hands of the Mexicans and virtually a prisoner. This will bring up an interesting diplomatic question, as we all wish to see Secretary Knox's idea carried out of his being considered a criminal and held to personal responsibility for the execution of the two Americans. If in some way the Secretary of State can bring about this consummation, it will be of great advantage to all Americans in the countries to the south of us, making their lives, persons and property more secure; also in teaching the unprincipled political intrigues in those countries that they cannot imprison and murder at their own sweet will.

The thanks of The National Tribune are hereby tendered to those who have so generously responded to the request for copies of the "Si and Shorpy" books. Answers have come by the dozens from those who possess either one or all four of the volumes that were printed, and The National Tribune's wants are now supplied. So it is not necessary to write us any more letters. The first volume of "Si and Shorpy" will soon be off the press. Very many of the readers have expressed a desire to secure other copies than the single one that most of them possess. In time the whole story as it appeared in The National Tribune, running thru a series of six or seven years, will be printed in book form. The first four volumes will be issued as soon as possible thereafter.

THE VETERANS' COLONY.

The Veterans' Colony at St. Cloud, Florida, was founded under the auspices of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE at the earnest solicitation of hundreds of veterans throughout the North who were seeking homes in the milder climate of the South. They were tired of the long, hard winters and wished to form a community of themselves in some favorite Southern region. For the purpose of carrying out this project the Seminole Land & Investment Company, Incorporated, was organized.

Since that time property has been sold to approximately 3,500 veterans and their friends. This number of sales assures a large population at St. Cloud and on the Colony lands. There are already 800 permanently located. Every train brings new settlers.

Many of the early subscribers, after a personal examination of St. Cloud and the Colony lands, increased their holdings.

A hotel has been in operation for the past three months.

A printing office has been erected and machinery to the value of more than \$8,000 is being installed.

Work has begun on a very substantial two-story brick building to be occupied by the First National Bank of St. Cloud. This Bank is being capitalized at \$50,000 fully paid, with a surplus of \$10,000.

The town of St. Cloud has been in existence since August 1st. At that time the population was about fifteen people and there were two houses and a few tents on the property, occupied principally by the surveyors and other employees of the Seminole Land & Investment Company.

A careful census taken the latter part of last week shows that there are 282 houses and tents on the land, all occupied by veterans and colonists. Of this number 118 are completed houses and 28 are houses in course of construction.

Bids will be asked by the County for the construction of a school house to cost between \$1,000 and \$5,000. Among the settlers at St. Cloud there are over one hundred school children. School will be opened in temporary quarters this month. The school house will be completed in January. The Seminole Land & Investment Company will contribute one-half of the cost of this school house.

Contracts are being let for many substantial residences costing from \$1,500 to \$3,500 each.

We may reasonably expect a population of 2,500 people on the Colony lands by early in January.

It is proposed to install an electric lighting system, water works and an ice plant. All these improvements will help to make St. Cloud one of the important towns of this section of Florida.

We are now offering an additional 500 town lots and an additional 500 five-acre tracts. The price for town lot and five-acre tract is \$125.00 for both.

Remember that there can be no doubt as to the success of the St. Cloud Colony. You can make no mistake in investing in a town lot and a five-acre tract at the present price of \$125.00 for both.

You must act promptly if you wish to secure a five-acre tract and town lot at this price, as all our previous offers have been over-subscribed and we believe that within the next two weeks the entire 500 lots and tracts will have been taken. Address:

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE, Washington, D. C.

COST OF THE PENSION BILL.

The strongest opponents of The National Tribune will give it credit for always being entirely frank and conceding none of the truth. We have certainly followed this course in giving our estimate as to the utmost cost of the proposed pension bill. The figures we gave would be what the bill would cost if it had been passed June 20, 1909, at the date of the last report of the Commissioner of Pensions. We did this to forestall any criticism that we were underestimating the comprehensiveness of the bill and its burden upon the Treasury.

Possibly one point that we did not sufficiently emphasize was the very significant one that we have now reached the end of pension allowances. For years the opponents of pension legislation have been able to frighten the public by an "unknown army" of portentious size which would swell the expenditures beyond all calculation. It was alleged and accepted by many that at least 150,000 veterans were still off the pension list, and would come in upon any liberalization of the laws. When the laws were liberalized by the passage of the McCumber act, admitting to the pension rolls substantially every man who had served three months, been honorably discharged and arrived at the age of 62 years, the whole of this "unknown army" was gathered in under the energetic administration of Commissioner Varner. So completely was this done that, as we pointed out last week, there were, June 20, 1909, only 46,375 cases pending arising out of the civil war. Of these only 4,867 were original cases. The mere statement of this fact shows that the limit of original cases has been practically exhausted. There remains, therefore, only the estimate of the cost of increasing the ratings and of those who are already on the roll and of repealing the limitations upon marriages.

While admitting that if the bill had been passed June 20, 1909, it would cost the great figures then given, it must be kept in mind that the bill was not then passed, and that in the six months which have intervened death's

ravages have made fearful shrinkages in this total. About 20,000 veterans have already passed from the roll to that land where quarterly payments are unknown. As these received an average pension of \$169.82, we know that the cost of the bill has been reduced by this item alone \$3,336,400. This is only the beginning.

The death rate, from the very nature of things, must increase quite rapidly every month, and the shrinkage be at a rate which must soon overtake any possible increase in the ratings. There will be also a decrease in the amount of the first payments and other shrinkages running up into more millions. If Congress should at once take up the consideration of The National Tribune pension bill, with the best intentions of passing it, fully 50,000 pensioners would pass away before the bill, in the ordinary legislative operations, could become a law. In other words, if by any good fortune the law should become operative June 20, 1910, there would be 50,000 fewer veterans to enjoy its provisions, and it would require \$3,000,000 less to meet its provisions. This is without taking into consideration the other important reductions, amounting to millions, which we have cited.

We are quite aware of the low condition of the Treasury and the intense desire of the President for greater economy in public expenditures, and we are as much in sympathy with that idea as anyone can be, but it must be said, on the other hand, that much of the present expenditure by the Government is for the benefit of future generations, and future generations should bear their share of the cost and not entail it all upon the one which does the work. Many millions of dollars are being expended in the way of investments with reference to future benefits, such as the Panama Canal, the forestry and conservation policies, the improvement of rivers and harbors and the erection of adequate public buildings. These expenditures cannot be considered as current expenses, but as investments, part of the cost of which should be met by future generations. On the other hand, the pension expenditure is the payment of a debt

THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE BILL.

The following is the bill THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE will urge Congress to pass at the coming session.

AN ACT

To Amend the Act of June 27, 1890, the Act of April 19, 1908, and Other Acts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. That any person who served 90 days or more in the military or naval service of the United States during the late civil war, or 60 days in the war with Mexico, and who has been honorably discharged therefrom, and who has reached the age of 62 years or over, shall, upon making proof of such facts according to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may provide, be placed upon the pension roll, and be entitled to receive a pension as follows: In case such person has reached the age of 62 years, \$15 per month; 65 years, \$20 per month; 70 years, \$30 per month; 75 years or over, \$40 per month; and such pension shall commence from the date of the filing of the application in the Bureau of Pensions after the passage and approval of this Act: *Provided*, that pensioners who are 62 years of age or over, and who are now receiving pensions under existing laws, or whose claims are pending in the Bureau of Pensions, may, by application to the Commissioner of Pensions, in such form as he may prescribe, receive the benefits of this Act; and nothing herein contained shall prevent any pensioner or person entitled to a pension from prosecuting his claim and receiving a pension under any other general or special act: *Provided*, that no person shall receive a pension under any other law at the same time or for the same period that he is receiving a pension under the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, further, that no person who is now receiving or shall hereafter receive a greater pension under any other general or special law than he would be entitled to receive under the provisions herein shall be pensionable under this Act.

SEC. 2. That rank in the service shall not be considered in applications filed hereunder.

SEC. 3. That the clauses in the Acts of June 27, 1890, May 9, 1900, and April 19, 1903, denying pensions to widows of soldiers, sailors and marines, who married their husbands subsequent to June 27, 1890, are hereby repealed.

long duty and which should be met with promptness, not merely for the sake of justice, but that of mercy and gratitude. The bondholders were in no hurry for their money, and it was not lost to them if not paid promptly. It is different with regard to the men who in their youth gave lavishly of their blood and young strength to preserve the Union. All these men are now old, they have reached the neediest time in their lives, when they urgently need the Government's assistance to make tolerable their declining years. They have nearly all passed the wage-earning period of life, they are being denied employment both in private and public service, and their needs are overpowering. In every community they are found, and the humanity of providing for them is one of the burdens of the States, Counties, Townships and municipalities. Any increase in the rates will lift this burden from the local authorities and place it where it properly belongs, upon the whole Nation, which has benefited by the service and sacrifice of these men. For this reason the public can be called upon with reason and justice to endure the large pension payments for a year or two longer, when the shrinkage will become so rapid that no one can complain. It will be, rather, a source of sorrow that the veterans are passing away so rapidly, and that the Government can do so little for the men who have done so much for it.

DEATH OF GEN. E. A. CARMAN.

After a short illness from pneumonia Gen. Ezra A. Carman died at his home in Washington, Saturday morning, Dec. 25. He was born at Metuchen, N. J., and graduated from the Western Military Institute in 1855, after which he served as a Professor in the University of Nashville for two years. At the outbreak of the war he helped organize the 7th N. J., of which regiment he became Lieutenant-Colonel Sept. 19, 1861, and served with it until he was commissioned as Colonel of the 13th N. J., July 8, 1862. This last regiment belonged to Williams's Division of the Twelfth Corps, and went with the rest of the corps to the West, becoming the First Division of the Twentieth Corps. It took a distinguished part in the Atlanta campaign. On the march to the sea Comrade Carman commanded a brigade consisting of the 2d Mass., 13th N. J., 167th and 159th N. Y. and 3d Wis., and received commendations from his superiors as to his efficiency in the performance of his duty. He was brevetted a Brigadier-General for gallant and meritorious service and mustered out June 8, 1865.

After his return from the army Gen. Carman was Controller of Jersey City until 1877, when he was appointed Chief Clerk of the Department of Agriculture. When Cleveland came in, and later was made a member of the Commission for the creation of the Antislavery National Military Park. In this position his great knowledge of the battle and of the history of the war was of signal service, and the park with its inscriptions was largely his work. Upon the death of members of the Chattanooga Military Park Commission he was put upon that Board, and continued until his death. He had a high reputation as an authority on military subjects, and was in demand for contributions to encyclopedias and other authoritative publications. He wrote 220 articles on the war for the Encyclopedia Americana.

He leaves a widow, three sons and a daughter. One of his sons, Dr. L. D. Carman, is a prominent physician of Washington. The remaining were buried in Arlington, and the honorary pallbearers were: Gen. George B. Davis, U. S. Army; Gen. Frank G. Smith, U. S. Army; Col. John Tweedale, U. S. Army; Justice Job Barnard, John Joy Edson and Montgomery Cumming.

THE G. A. R. NATIONAL PENSION COMMITTEE.

It has been suggested by some that there was an implication of a criticism upon the G. A. R. National Pension Committee in our editorial of last week. This should not and cannot be fairly construed in this way. The G. A. R. Pension Committee has done, and is doing, invaluable service to the Order, and its best monuments are the pension laws now on the statute books. It has always worked faithfully, zealously and most judiciously for the interests of the Order. No comrades have given more anxious and unselfish service to the veterans and their dependent ones. The members are all anxious to give the veterans and their widows all that can be possibly got for them, and in the nature of things they must be in the last judges of the temper of public opinion and of Congress, and decide what can be asked for with hope of success and what cannot. How judiciously they have discharged this responsible duty is shown by the bills which have been enacted into laws. The rules and regulations of our Order and the wisdom gained by experience impress upon the necessity of arraying our whole force solidly behind the committee and following its lead. In no other way can we hope for success.

Commander-in-Chief Van Sant has wisely reappointed the committee which has been doing such excellent service for several years. The committee consists of the following comrades: R. B. Brown, Zanesville, O.; S. S. Burdett, Washington, D. C.; John R. King, Baltimore, Md.; L. B. Raymond, Hampton, Iowa; William M. Olin, Boston. Every one of these names carries strength with its mention, and we can rest assured that the committee will do the very best possible for the comrades, and take into wise consideration the temper of Congress and the people as to what legislation can be secured.

Electron is the name of a new metal produced in Germany and of which great things are prophesied in its use for airships, flying machines and automobiles. It is described as a magnesium alloy, which has the wonderful lightness of 1.75, where aluminum has a specific gravity from 2.7 to 3. This would make it very buoyant in water, and it is represented to have great tensile strength and ductility. It is silver white and can be given a brilliant polish.

DEATH OF GEN. CASEMENT.

A shock will come to the members of the Army of the Ohio over the unexpected announcement of the death of Gen. John S. Casement at Painesville, Ohio. Gen. Casement and his fine regiment, the 103d Ohio, and his brigade played a most conspicuous part in making the history of the Ohio members of the Army of the Ohio a deservedly proud. The last news that we had from Gen. Casement was that in spite of his age he was in excellent health and full of life and vigor. It seems that he had never really recovered from the shock of his accident at San Jose, Cal., during the earthquake, when the Hotel Vendome fell and caught him in the debris, breaking several ribs. The severe weather brought on an attack of pneumonia, and Dec. 15, after an illness of three days, he passed away.

Gen. Casement was born at Geneva, N. Y., in 1829, and married his wife in 1857. Three sons were born to them, of whom one, Dan Dillon Casement, survives. Immediately after the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter Gen. Casement enlisted in the 7th Ohio, of which regiment he became Major. His first fight was at Cross Lanes, Aug. 26, 1861, where he showed high courage and brilliant management. Later he helped raise the 103d Ohio and became its Lieutenant-Colonel. He soon succeeded to the Colonelcy, and was much of the time in command. With his brigade, consisting of the 6th Ill., 65th and 124th Ind., 103d Ohio and 5th Tenn., he took a brilliant part in the great victory of Franklin. Of this Comrade T. H. Stevens, Minneapolis, Minn., says:

"The accounts leave out altogether his Franklin campaign, which, as you know, was one of the greatest in his career, as he took such a prominent part in the battle of Franklin, and is known throughout the South as the Brigadier-General who held our line east of the Columbia Pike, in front of the old cotton gin, where so many of Hood's men lost their lives in trying to drive him out of the works. In front of his brigade Gen. Cleburn, John Adams and Quarles gave up their lives, and fully 40 per cent of their commands were left stretched on the field in front of Casement's Brigade. For this service, as you know, Casement received a Brigadier-General's commission, and served to the end of the war as commander of the Second Brigade of the Third Division of the Twenty-third Corps. I have always been proud that I was a humble member of his command. His men all loved him, and would have died for him at any time, if called upon to make the sacrifice."

Upon leaving the army, Gen. Casement began railroad contracting, and achieved much fame by his great work. He laid the original rails of the Lake Shore and Big Four Railroads, and built the first part of the Nickel Plate from Cleveland to Buffalo. He also built important pieces of road in South America, and particularly in Costa Rica. His greatest work, however, was in laying the track of the Union Pacific to Cheyenne, Wyo. The work done then was one of the wonders of railroad building, and Gen. Casement made a remarkable record of seven miles a day, which has not been exceeded since. Up to 1885 the General had laid more miles of track than any other contractor in America. He kept his home in Painesville, however, and was much interested in everything that related to that city and Northeastern Ohio. The Painesville Telegraph-Republican says:

"The death of Gen. 'Jack' Casement comes as a severe blow to the community. So recent did the fatal illness attack him that very few, with the exception of relatives and intimate friends, even knew of his indisposition. There will be great mourning here where his kindly personality has brought sunshine into the community, and elsewhere where he had hosts of friends and admirers."

DEATH OF SENATOR RAINES.

Senator John Raines, for many years a prominent member of the New York Legislature, died at his home in Canandaigua, Dec. 16, at the age of 69. He was the son of a Methodist preacher and bred a lawyer. In the Fall of 1861 he raised a company which entered the 55th N. Y. He commanded this company through its service in the Army of the Potomac and North Carolina until July, 1863, when, his health having broken down, he resigned and returned to New York and the practice of the law. He also entered into politics actively, was elected to the Assembly and then State Senator. He was next elected to Congress for two terms, but in 1894 returned to the New York Senate, in which he served until his death. He was Chairman of the Committee on Railroads, in which he did excellent service, and much of the wise regulation of the New York railroads is to be credited to him. Since 1902 he had been President pro tem of the Senate. The 54th Separate Company, N. Y. N. G., was the guard of honor while the body lay in state, and the funeral services were conducted by Albert Murray Post, of which Senator Raines was a member.

THANKS TO THE VETERANS.

Col. Palmer, one of the Senate officials, calls our attention to the following joint resolution adopted at the first session of the 36th Congress, and approved May 3, 1866:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That it is the duty and the privilege of Congress to express the gratitude of the Nation to the officers, soldiers and seamen of the United States, by whose valor and endurance on the land and sea the rebellion has been crushed and its pride and its power has been humbled, by whose fidelity to the cause of freedom the Government of the people has been preserved and maintained, and by whose orderly return from the fire and blood of civil war to the peaceful pursuits of private life the exalting and ennobling influence of free institutions upon a Nation has been so signally manifested to the world.

People who have been up say that the aeroplane is as far from a smooth-aiding bird as a cobblestone pavement is from a feather bed. It bucks all the time, and worse than any broncho ever foaled in Texas.

VETERANS' EXEMPTION.

In response to an inquiry as to the exemption from taxation of veterans' property in Michigan we give the following clauses from the Michigan law:

"11. All real estate used as a homestead, not exceeding in value \$1,200, of any soldier or sailor of the Federal Government who served three months or more during the civil war, and in all real estate used as a homestead not exceeding in value \$1,200, of any widow of such soldier or sailor: *Provided*, That any soldier or sailor, or the widow of any such soldier or sailor, desiring to accept the benefits named in this section shall make and file with the Supervisor or assessing officer an affidavit, stating under oath that he was a soldier or sailor of the Federal Government during the civil war for a period of not less than three months; and, in case it be the widow of a soldier or sailor making such application, said affidavit must state that she is the widow of a soldier or sailor of the Federal Government not less than three months as such soldier or sailor during the civil war. The said affidavit shall be sworn to before said Supervisor, assessing officer or any officer authorized to administer oaths, and then filed by the said officer in his office and turned over to his successor, where the same shall be open to inspection. Any person making a false affidavit in any particular for the purpose of exemption from taxation shall be deemed to be guilty of the crime of perjury and punished accordingly. *Provided*, however, That this exemption shall not operate to relieve from the payment of taxes any of the persons hereinbefore enumerated who are the owners of taxable property of greater value than \$1,200."

"3. Of all Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic, Sons of Veterans' Unions and of the Woman's Relief Corps connected therewith, of all Young Men's Christian Associations and of Women's Christian Temperance Union Associations, Young People's Christian Unions and other similar associations.

"4. Pensions receivable from the United States."

SENATOR CURTIS'S BILL.

That faithful and zealous friend of the veterans, Senator Curtis, of Kansas, writes as follows:

United States Senate, Committee on Indian Depredations, Nov. 23, 1909.

Editor National Tribune: I have received your letter from my friends, enclosing copies of The National Tribune bill, which is your intention to urge at the coming session of Congress. I have read it with great interest, and I have no doubt that it will give me great pleasure to support the bill which I introduced on Jan. 7, 1908, and had intended to reintroduce at the next Congress, but assure you I will give no greater pleasure than to support The National Tribune bill. I think, however, there should be other divisions of your bill; for instance, you jump from 65 to 70 years of age. I think if you arrange for \$25 at the age of 68 it would be better. I also note you jump from 70 years at \$30 to 75 years at \$40. Would it not be a good plan to have an intermediate rate of \$35 for those who arrive at the age of 73? You know, I have always favored such divisions, as it was in the interest of the ex-Union soldiers, and I hope you will call upon me at any time you are interested in any measure pending before the Senate.

Wishing you and The National Tribune success in the efforts to secure adoption of pension legislation, I am, with kind regards, very truly—Charles Curtis.

SENATOR CURTIS'S BILL.

That any person who served 90 days or more in the military or naval service of the United States during the late civil war or 60 days in the War with Mexico, and who has been honorably discharged therefrom, and who has reached the age of 60 years or over, shall, upon making proof of such facts, according to such rules and regulations as the Secretary of the Interior may provide, be placed upon the pension roll, and be entitled to receive a pension as follows: In case such person has reached the age of 60 years, \$12 per month; 62 years, \$15 per month; 65 years, \$18 per month; 70 years, \$21 per month; 75 years or over, \$25 per month; and such pension shall commence from the date of filing of the application in the Bureau of Pensions after the passage and approval of this Act: *Provided*, that pensioners who are 60 years of age or over, and who are now receiving pensions under existing laws, or whose claims are pending in the Bureau of Pensions, may, by application to the Commissioner of Pensions on such forms as he may prescribe, receive the benefits of this Act; and nothing herein contained shall prevent any pensioner or person entitled to a pension from prosecuting his claim and receiving a pension under any other general or special act: *Provided*, that no person shall receive a pension under any other law at the same time or for the same period that he is receiving a pension under the provisions of this Act: *Provided*, further, that no person who is now receiving or shall hereafter receive a greater pension under any other general or special law than he would be entitled to receive under the provisions herein shall be pensionable under this Act.

SEC. 2. That where record evidence cannot be obtained to establish the applicant's age satisfactorily the age given by the applicant at the time of his enlistment shall be taken and held to be conclusive evidence as to the applicant's age.

PIERCE'S LETTER TO JEFF DAVIS.

A resolution was introduced in the last Republican Convention in New Hampshire asking that legislative action be taken toward erecting a monument to ex-President Franklin Pierce. Delegate F. H. Buffum, a veteran, opposed the resolution, saying that that resolution would not pass until there had been a few more funerals and the Grand Army button had disappeared. Then it might be time to erect a monument to a man who wrote such a traitorous letter to Jeff Davis. Inquiry is made of The National Tribune as to what this letter was, and especially the obnoxious part of it. The letter was written to Davis under date of Jan. 6, 1869, in which he denounced all those who were opposed to the extension of slavery, and said:

"I have never believed that actual disruption of the Union can occur without blood, and if thru the madness of Northern Abolitionists that dire calamity must come, the fighting will not be done Mason and Dixon's line, but directly it will be within the two classes of citizens to whom I have referred. Those who defy law and scout constitutional obligations will, if we have no arbitration of arms, find occupation enough at home."

Think of six trainloads of corn being rushed up to feed Wyoming's sheep, imprisoned in snow drifts, and then make up your mind to go to Florida.

DR. COOK CONDEMNED.

It is with extreme regret that we see Dr. Cook's claim rejected. The National Tribune has wished, for the honor of the country, that both men who claimed to have reached the North Pole should be proved to be telling the truth. Neither of them, however, gave any other evidence than their own assertions, and Dr. Cook was hampered from the outset by suspicious as to the truth of his claim of having climbed Mount McKinley. Yet it is pointed out that he had been absent from Elah some 15 months, and it was about as easy to travel toward the North Pole as in any other direction. It looks now, tho, as if he did not reach anywhere near the polar axis.

The most charitable view to take is that Dr. Cook believed he reached the Pole. It does not seem possible that a man who cared so much for reputation as to spend all those dreary months in the polar regions should want to utterly ruin his reputation by any false claim. If, as represented, he made \$50,000 by his lectures, even this would not cut much figure, since a man who cares for his reputation would not for a moment think of selling it out for even such a sum as \$50,000. Painfully close to the rejection of his proofs that he reached the Pole comes the destruction of his claim that he climbed Mount McKinley.

Altogether it leaves a very painful impression upon the public mind, and Dr. Cook is in a position that most men would not be tempted by millions of dollars to assume.

Whatever may have been said about the pauper labor of Europe has been fully borne out by the investigations of the Labor Department of the French Government. It finds that in the Department of the Seine Inférieure there are seamstresses who earn only two cents an hour, and can afford no better nourishment than soup and cheese. The hours of work average 12 and 13 and even reach 15. In 70 per cent of the cases the earnings of the women were under \$50 and in 12 per cent below \$40 a year. In the Department of the Oise, where the chief industry is making blue cotton shirts and aprons, one old woman only received \$5.60 for five months' work, and another young woman earned \$7 in eight months. Four-fifths of the women work more than 10 hours a day and get less than \$30 a year. One-fifth of them get less than \$40 a year.

It is likely that the present political agitation in Great Britain will result in Americanizing the form of Government in many ways, not the least important being advance in home rule for Ireland. The Radicals want to make the Empire a federation on the model of the United States Government, with local Legislatures for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, with possibly similar bodies for the colonies. This is stoutly resisted by the Conservatives, who think that the Empire will be ruined unless all the power is concentrated in the hands of the English members of Parliament. In the present struggle Premier Asquith has promised home rule for Ireland on purely Irish matters. If Ireland gets a local Legislature, the same cannot be denied to the other Kingdoms.

At present calculations travel by airship will be emphatically first-class transportation, at least so far as the rate of fare is concerned. A German engineer who is chairman of an aeronautical society proposes to build an airship which will cost \$100,000 and be capable of carrying 18 passengers beside the crew. To operate this will cost \$75,000 a year, or \$375 for each working day. Assuming that it will make 200 trips a year and carry its full amount of passengers, each of these would have to pay at least \$25 for his day's ride in order to make the investment reasonably profitable.

The horribly insidious conditions of Russian life are illustrated by the wiping out of an entire village near St. Petersburg by smallpox. Smallpox is regarded as "Holy Sickness